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BIGGLESWADE URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1959



OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1959

To the Members of the Biggleswade Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report upon the health and sanitary circumstances for the Urban District of Biggleswade for the year 1959.

The adjusted death rate of 11.3 while somewhat higher than last year's lowest ever rate, is less than that for the whole country. Again diseases of the heart and blood vessels and cancer were the chief causes of death. There were six more deaths from cancer than in 1958.

The birth rate of 14.2 is higher than the low rate for 1958 but still considerably under that for England and Wales viz. 16.6. The infant mortality rate of 16.8 is less than the national rate and is much less than the corresponding rate for last year viz. 34.2. It is again pleasing to note that there were no maternal deaths.

The small number of infectious diseases notified call for no comment. No cases of Poliomyelitis were notified.

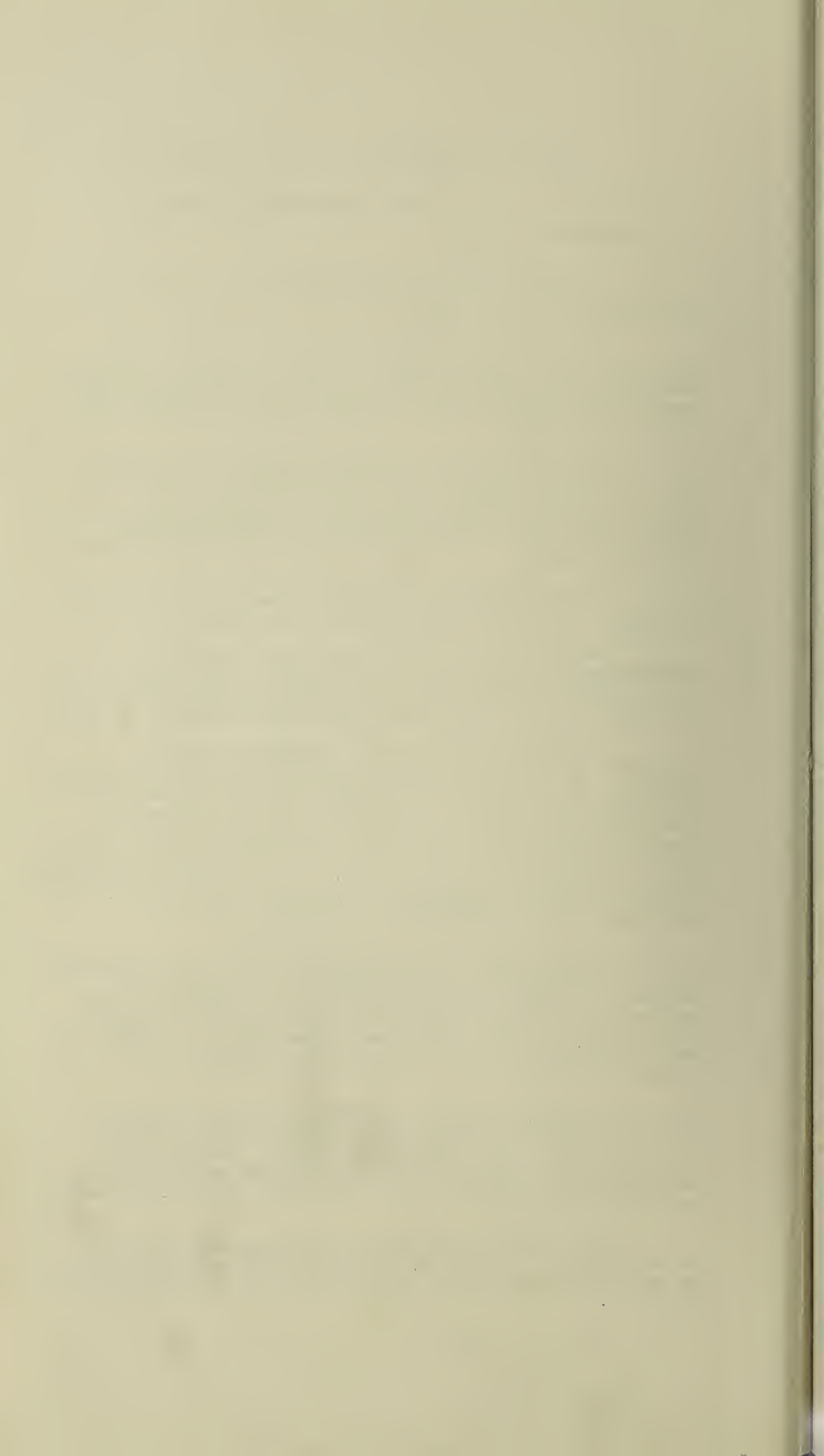
As this will be my last Annual Report prior to my retirement as your Medical Officer of Health, I should like to refer to some changes in health work which have vitally affected the well being of the community since I came to Biggleswade in May 1937.

One of the most outstanding features has been the elimination of Diphtheria, the last case in the Urban District being notified in 1946. In 1937 there were 52 cases of Diphtheria in Biggleswade with 2 deaths. The Council agreed to a scheme of immunisation for all school children free of cost to the parents through the family doctor and was one of the first authorities in the County to introduce such a free scheme. All the Medical Practitioners in the area agreed to participate. It should be stressed that only as long as the child population is adequately protected by immunisation will Diphtheria be kept in subjection.

The introduction of the National Health Service Act in 1948 resulted in the extension of facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of illness, and the extension of the preventative health services particularly in relation to midwifery and home nursing, mental health, home help and the care of the elderly. All this has been of advantage not only to the individual but also to the community as a whole.

In 1956 the Ministry of Health introduced vaccination against Poliomyelitis at first for children under 15 years of age and now the age has been extended to 40 years. From statistics in this and other countries it may be confidently assumed that vaccination will eventually subdue Poliomyelitis just as immunisation has subdued Diphtheria.

Since 1937 many new housing estates have been built and many unfit houses condemned, with the result that many families have now an adequate healthy living space of which they had hitherto been deprived.



The purity of the water supply has been safeguarded by chlorination and the safety of milk ensured by pastuerisation and steps taken against contamination of food both during the preparation and distribution.

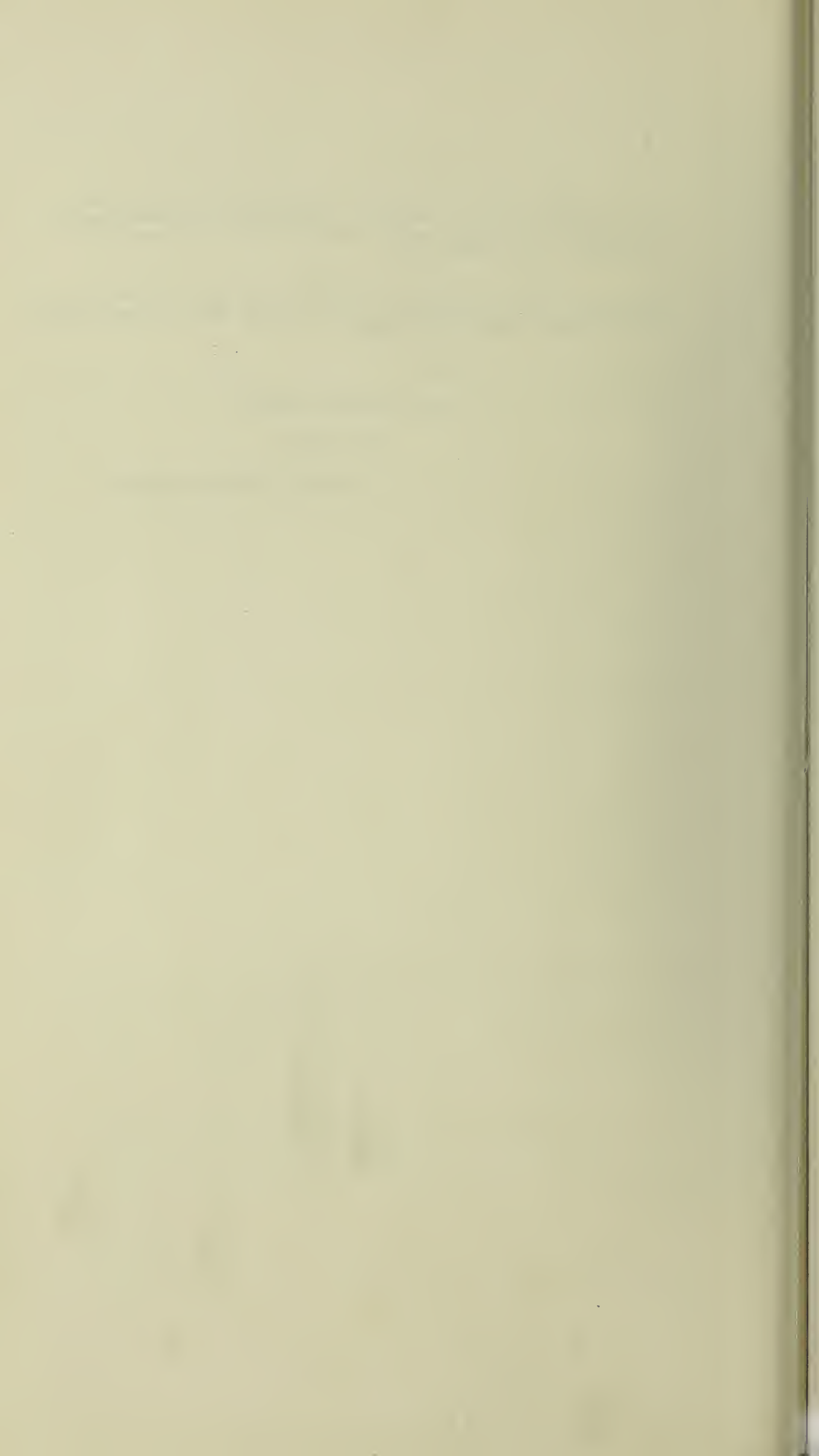
I wish to express my thanks to all the officials of the Council and their staffs for the willing help and co-operation I have always received from them.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C.A. HARVEY.

Medical Officer of Health.



GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	4,647
Registrar-General's estimate of Home Population	8,060
Number of inhabited houses end of 1959	2,550
Rateable Value	£99,501
Sum represented by a penny rate	£354. 7. 1.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	55	58	113
Illegitimate	4	2	6
	<u>59</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>119</u>
Crude birth rate per 1,000 Home population		14.8	
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 Home population		14.2	
Birth rate for England and Wales		16.5	

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Still Birth rate per 1,000 Total Births			40.3
Still Birth rate for England and Wales			20.7

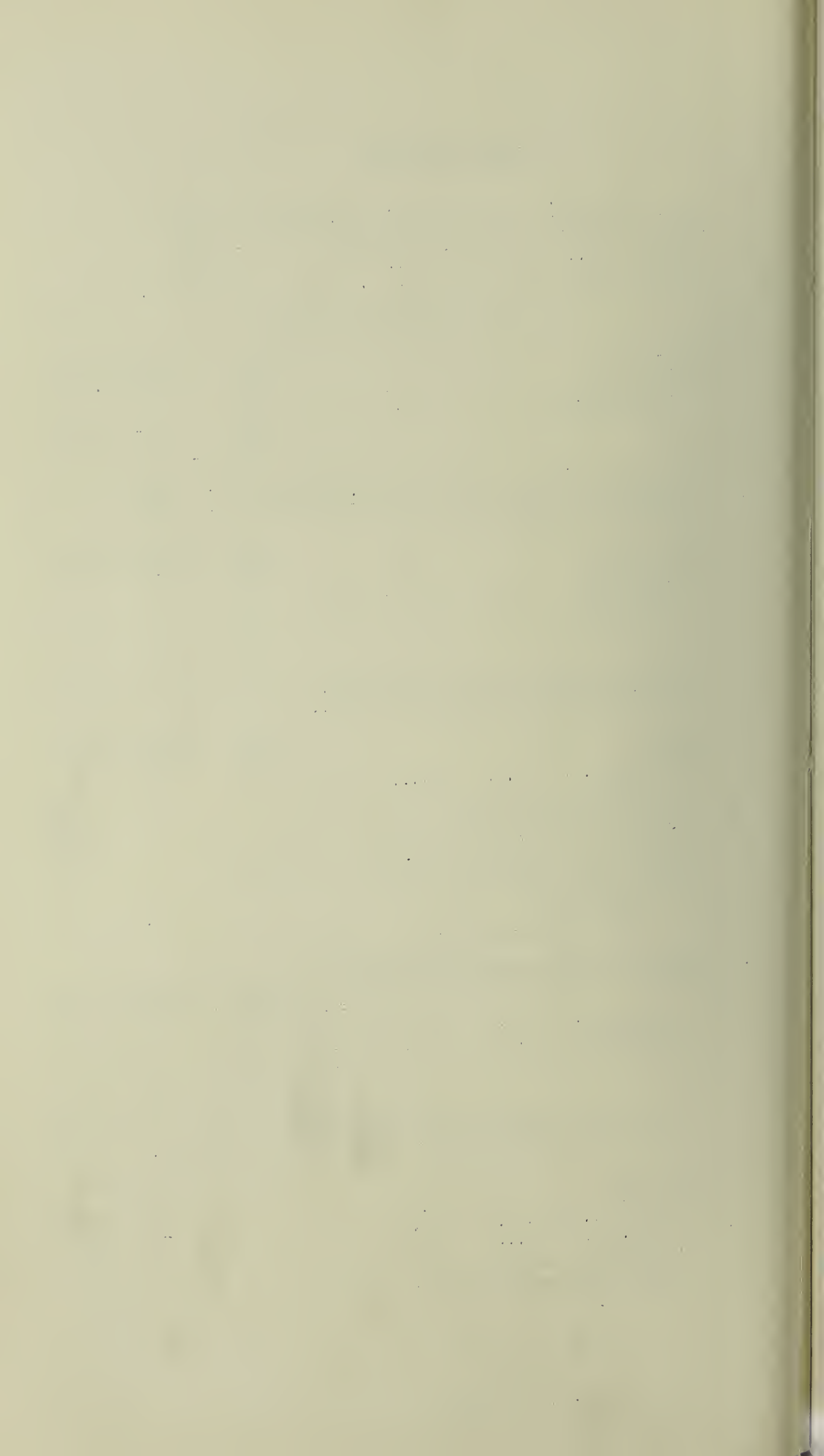
<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All Causes	65	52	117
Crude death rate per 1,000 Home population			14.5
Area Comparability Factor			0.78
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 Home population			11.3
Death rate for England and Wales			11.6
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth			
From Sepsis			-
From other causes			-

Deaths of infants under One Year of Age.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births			16.8
Rate for England and Wales			22.0

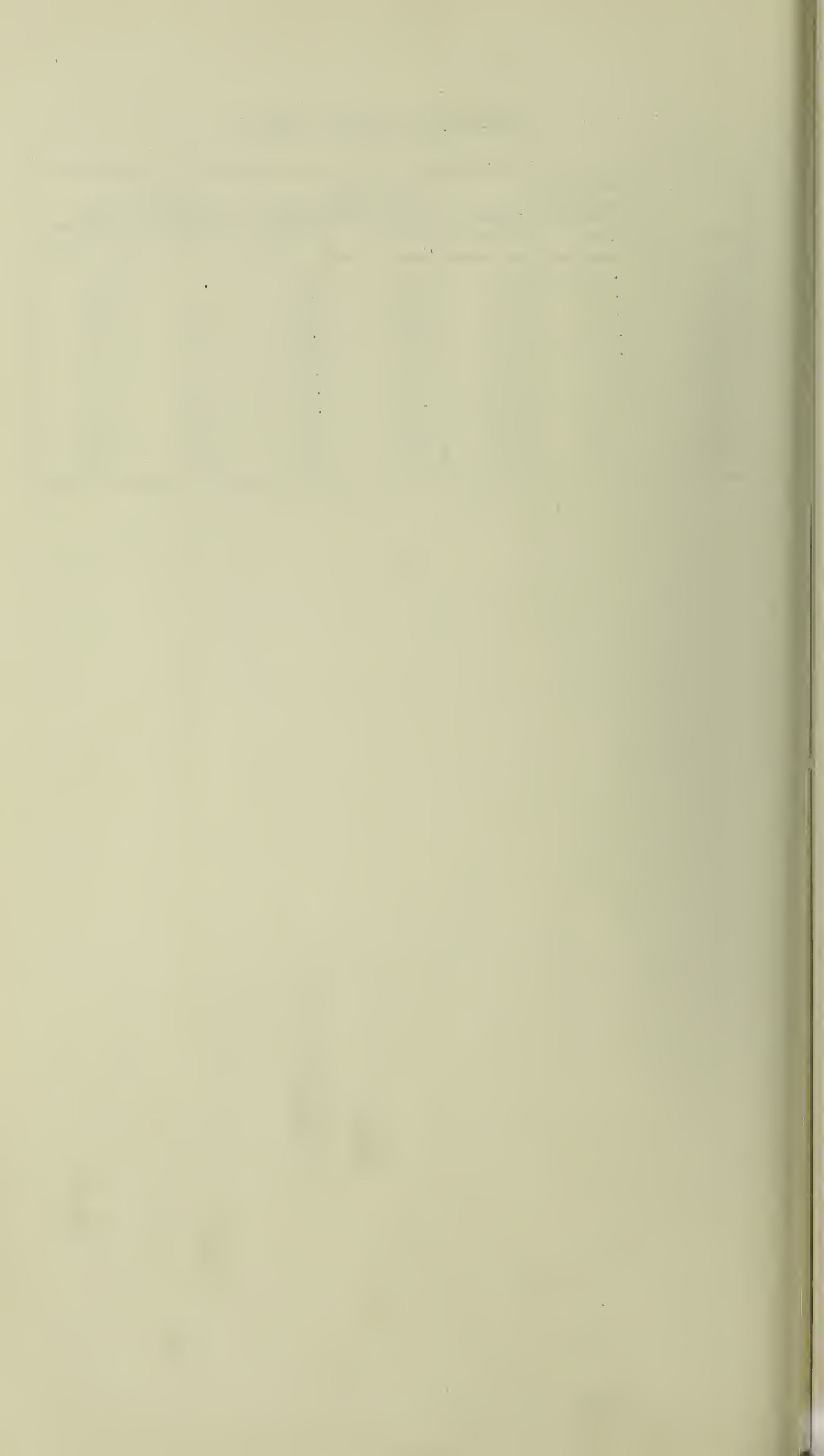
Deaths from

Measles	-
Whooping Cough	-
Influenza	12
Cancer (all forms)	26
Cancer (Lung and Bronchus)	2



STATISTICAL TABLE 1950 - 1959

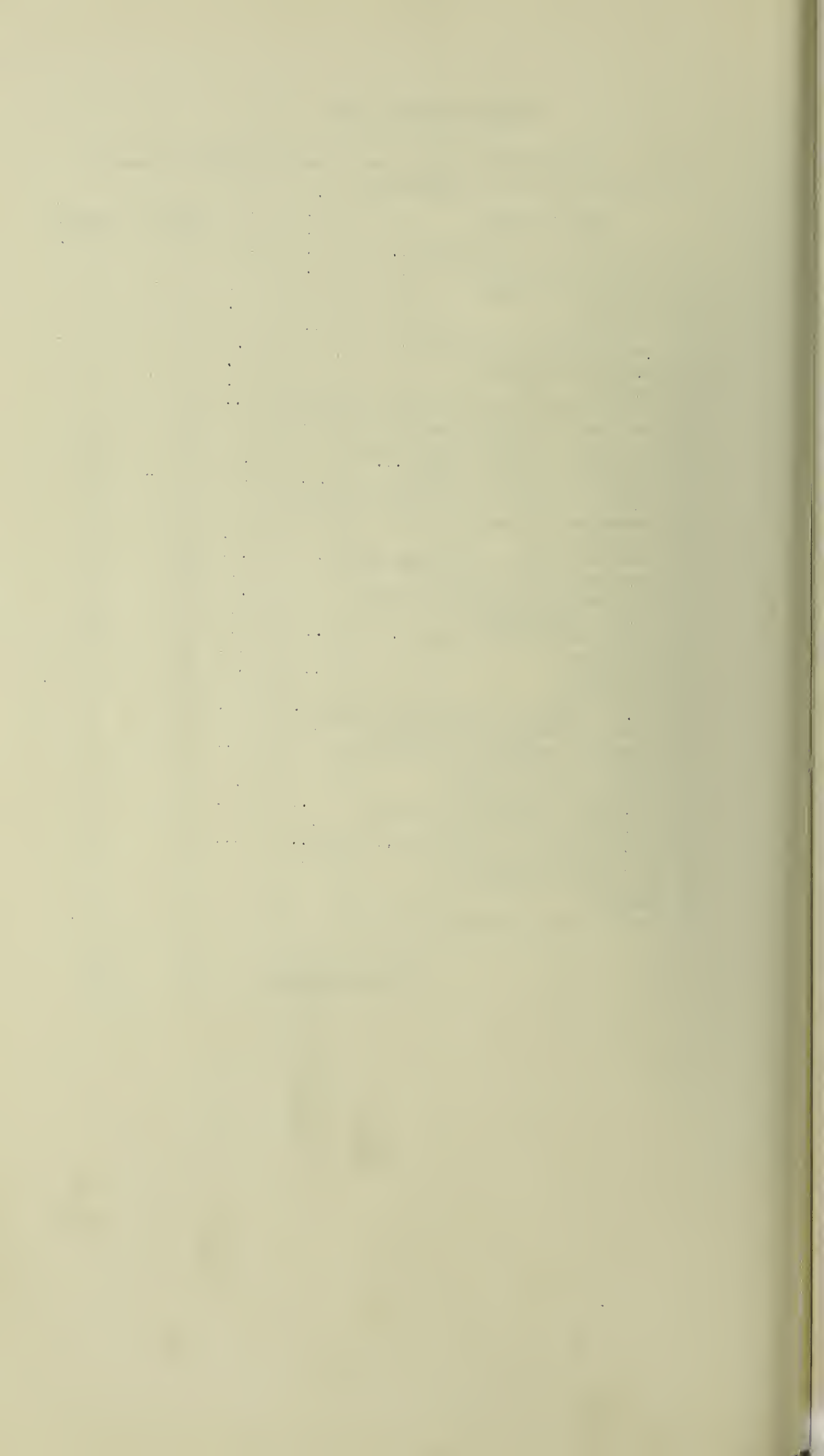
Year	DEATH RATE		BIRTH RATE		INFANT MORTALITY RATE	
	Biggleswade Urban	England & Wales	Biggleswade Urban	England & Wales	Biggleswade Urban	England & Wales
1950	9.4	11.6	18.3	15.8	15.3	29.8
1951	11.4	12.5	16.4	15.5	16.8	29.6
1952	11.9	11.3	15.4	15.3	35.1	27.6
1953	13.7	11.4	11.7	15.5	11.5	26.8
1954	12.6	11.3	14.6	15.2	17.7	25.5
1955	15.0	11.7	14.8	15.0	0.0	24.9
1956	10.4	11.7	16.4	15.7	15.6	23.8
1957	9.1	11.5	14.2	16.1	18.0	23.0
1958	8.4	11.7	13.8	16.9	34.2	22.5
1959	11.3	11.6	14.2	16.5	16.8	22.0



CAUSES OF DEATH, 1959

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics:-

<u>Cause of Death</u>				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	-	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parastic diseases	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm stomach	...	...	2	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm lungs Bronchus	...	...	1	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	9	5
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	12	8
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	8	2
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	3	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	7	13
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	3	-
22.	Influenza	...	...	5	7
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	1	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	3	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	2	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	4	2
33.	Motor Vehicles accidents	...	...	2	-
34.	All other accidents.	...	...	-	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-
<u>Total all causes</u>				<u>65</u>	<u>52</u>



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health -
C.A. Harvey, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H

Sanitary Inspector, Engineer and Surveyor -
T. Wilson, N.I. Mun. E., M.R.S.H.

Laboratory Facilities.

The services of the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, is available for the examination of any material submitted by the Health Department, or by General Practitioners. This service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council through the Ministry of Health, and there is no charge to the Council. The Laboratory undertakes the examination of throat swabs, sputum, urine and faeces, and blood from all cases of suspected infectious disease, and advice and assistance is always available.

Services provided by the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946:

1. Ambulance :

The Bedfordshire County Council provides a complete service covering the whole of the County. The service is a twenty-four hour one and is free of charge, and is available for the removal of all cases requiring admission to hospital and also for the transport of patients who are unable to use other means of transport to and from hospitals or clinics, so that they can receive any necessary treatment. The request for the provision of an ambulance must be made by a General Practitioner or by an Authorised Person.

The service is also available for the transport of persons suffering from infectious disease to isolation hospital.

The following depots are situated in the eastern and northern districts of the County :-

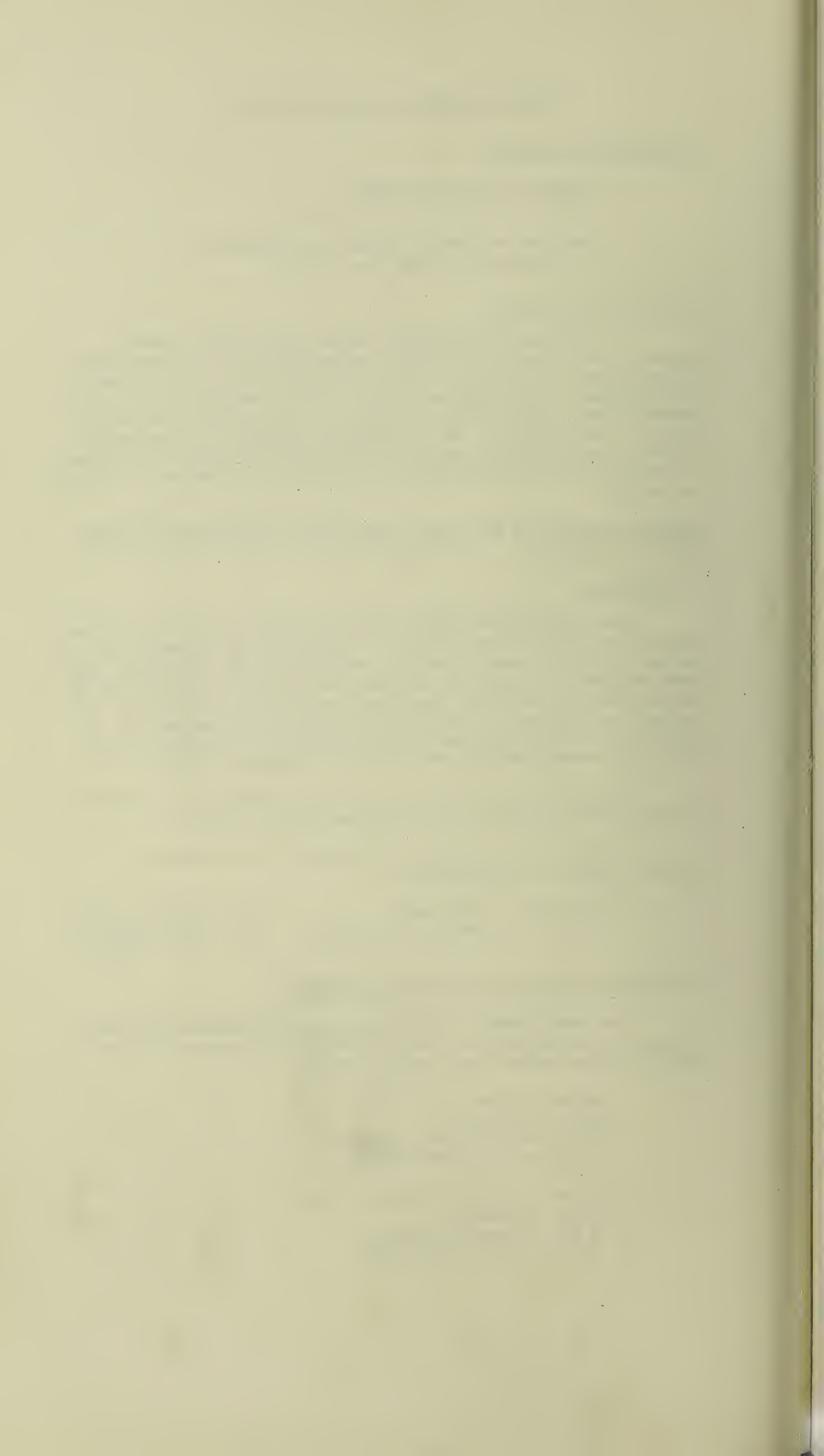
Biggleswade : Crab Lane.	Tel: Biggleswade 2295
Bedford : Bedford Road, Kempston	Tel: Bedford 5335 and 5336.

2. Midwifery and Domiciliary Nursing Services :

The County Council are the responsible Authority for these services. One midwife is available for Maternity cases, and one Nurse for Minor Medical and Surgical Cases.

Name and Address of Midwife :-
Miss M.P. Stafford,
17 Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
(Tel.No. Biggleswade 3266)

Name and Address of District Nurse :-
Miss E. Dillistone,
2 High Street, Biggleswade.
(Tel.No. Biggleswade 3177).



3. Health Visiting :

Name and address of Health Visitor :-

Miss D. Hipkiss,
The Lawns Health Centre, Biggleswade.
(Tel.No. Biggleswade 2158).

4. Clinic :

Maternity and Child Welfare -

Child Welfare - "The Lawns", Biggleswade, Tuesday afternoons.

Ante and Post Natal - "The Lawns", Biggleswade, alternate
Tuesday mornings.

Services provided by the Regional Hospital Board :

1. Venereal Disease Clinic :

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing. The days and times of
attendance are :-

Males and Females - Wednesday, 5 - 7 p.m.

Friday, 3 - 5 p.m.

2. Tuberculosis Clinic

The Chest Clinic, Bedford General Hospital, North Wing,
Kimbolton Road, Bedford. The days and times of attendance are :-

Tuesday	.....	9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.)	Females
		2 p.m. to 5 p.m.)	
Wednesday	.....	9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.)	Contacts
		2 p.m. to 5 p.m.)	Doctors Mini Film
Thursday	.....	9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.)	Males' Clinic
		2 p.m. to 5 p.m.)	
Friday	.....	9 a.m. to 1.0 p.m.	B.C.G. Vaccination.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

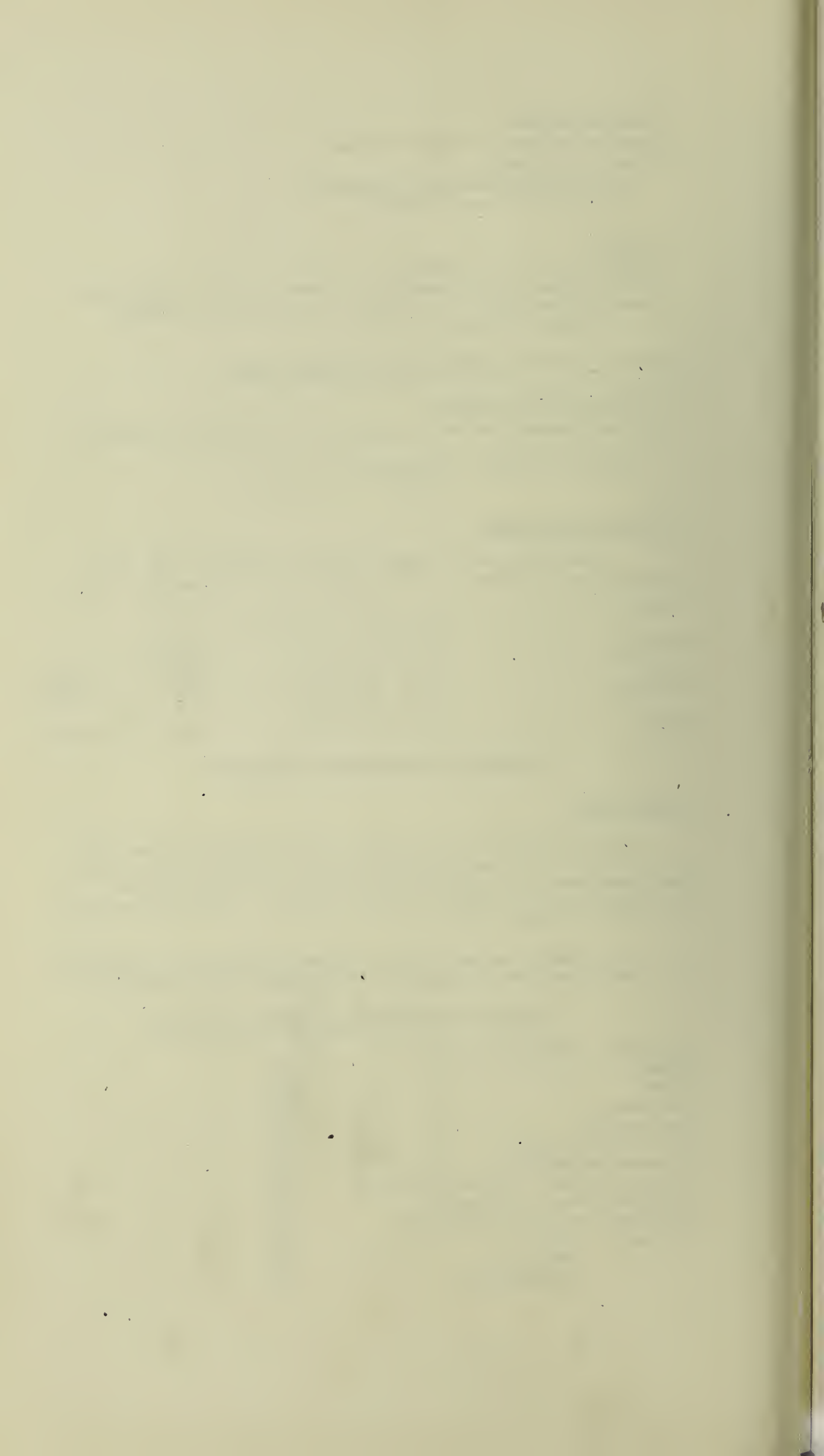
Water Supply :

Water is supplied to the area by the Biggleswade Water Board
and has proved very satisfactory in quality and quantity. Samples
have been taken periodically during the year and the results
have shown that the supply is of the highest standard of organic
and bacterial purity.

The following report by the Counties Public Health Laboratories
of a sample sent for examination on 19th March 1959 is typical :

Chemical Examination in parts per Million

Appearance - Clear and bright.	
Colour	Nil
Odour	Nil
Turbidity	Nil
Reaction pH.	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	23
Electric Conductivity	540
Dissolved Solids dried at 180 deg.C.	375
Chlorine present as Chloride	19
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	245
Hardness : Total	300
Carbonate	245
Non-Carbonate	35



Chemical Examination in parts per Million (contd).

Nitrate Nitrogen	...	0.0
Nitrite Nitrogen		ABSENT
Ammoniacal Nitrogen X	...	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen X	...	0.000
Metals - Iron	...	ABSENT
" - Zinc, Copper, Lead and Manganese		ABSENT
Oxygen absorbed	...	0.00
Residual Chlorine	...	ABSENT

X To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies developing on Agar -

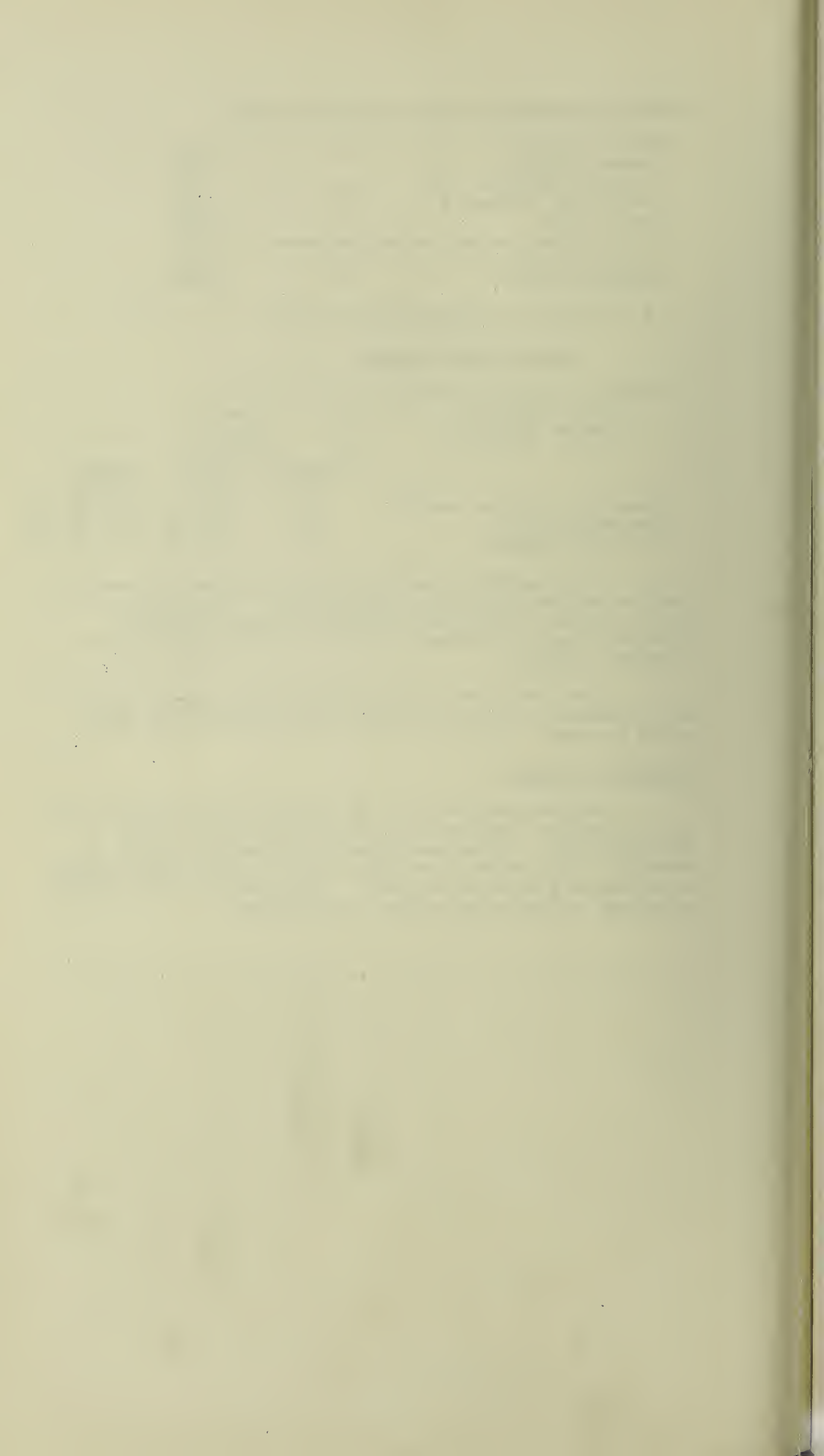
1 day at 37 degs. C.	...	0 per ml.	
2 days at 37 degs C.	...	0 per ml.	
3 days at 20 degs. C.	...	0 per ml.	
	Present	Absent	Probable
	in	from	Number
Presumptive Coliform reaction	-ml	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact.coli (Type 1)	-ml	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl.welchii reaction	-ml	100 ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree, contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of the highest standard of organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Drainage and Sewage :

With the exception of a few cottages on the Langford Road and some outlying cottages, the whole of the area has a water carriage system. The sewage disposal plant has been working to capacity. The length of new sewers laid during the year is given in the Sanitary Inspector's report. The cesspools of the outlying un-sewered properties are emptied by arrangement.



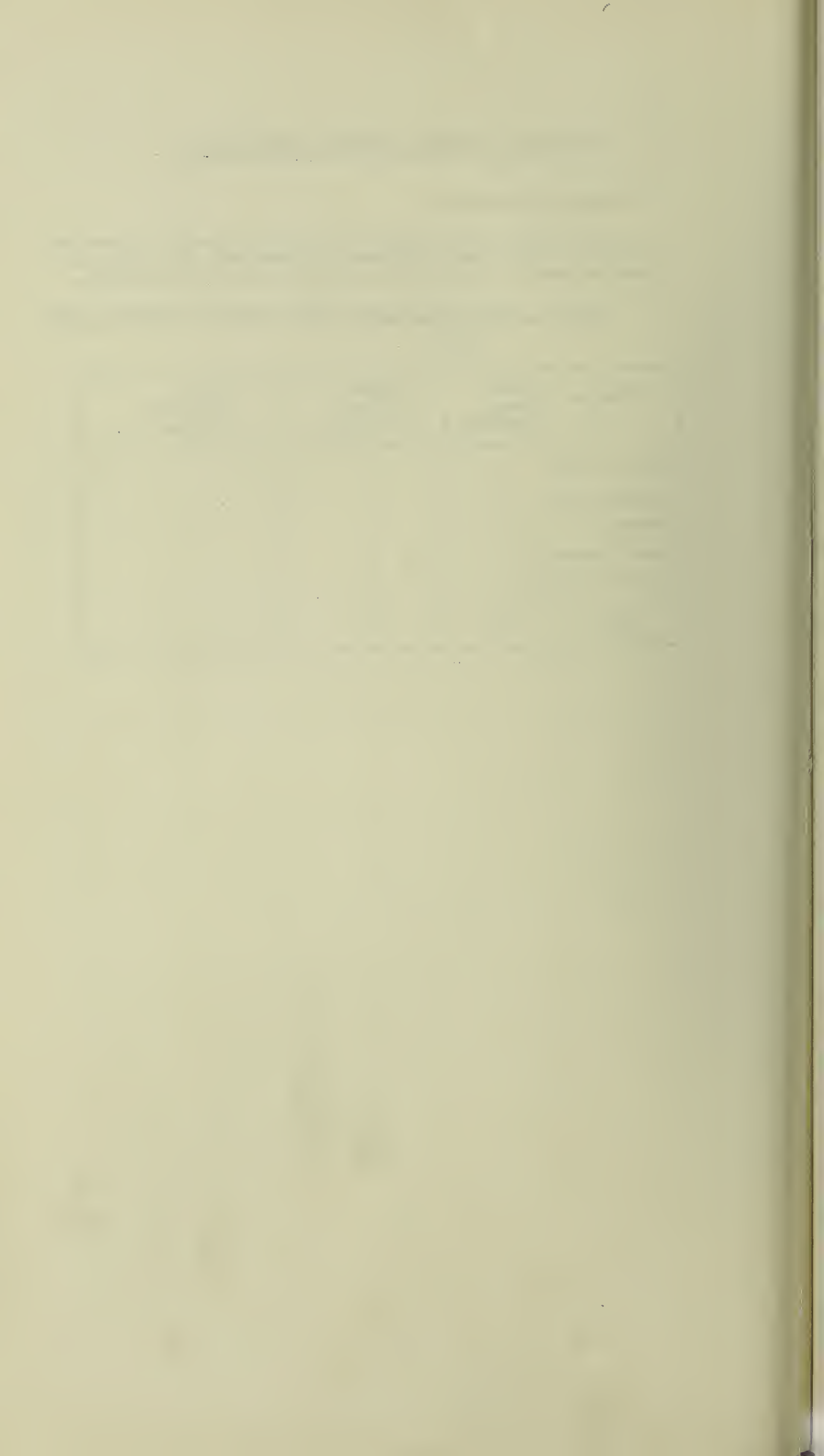
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

(a) General Statistics :

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases.

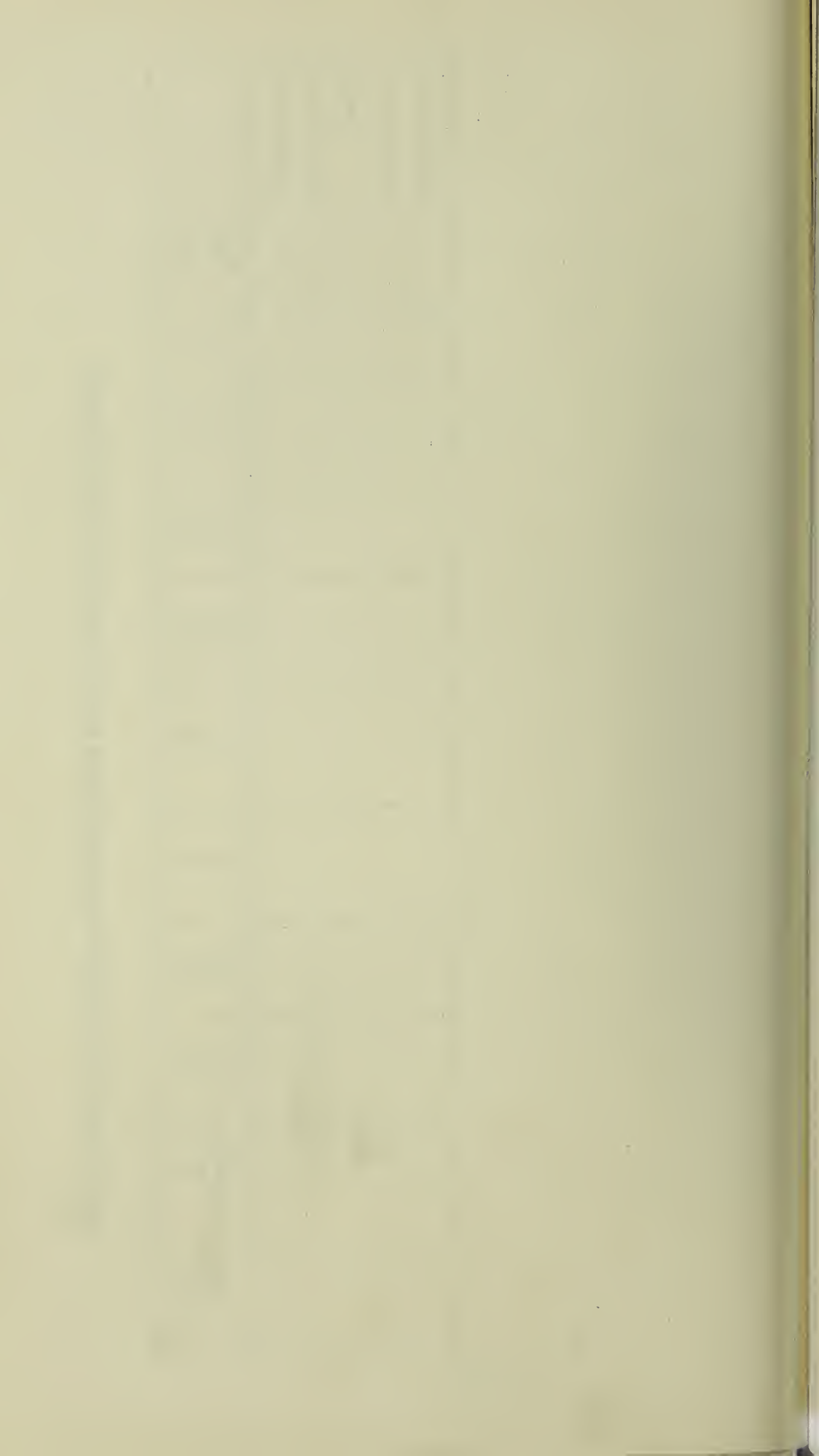
Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1959.

Disease	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total registered deaths.
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-
Measles	9	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	5	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	5	-
Total	28	5	-



Analysis of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year ended 31st December, 1959

	Under 1 Year M. F.	1 to 3 M. F.	3 to 5 M. F.	5 to 10 M. F.	10 to 15 M. F.	15 to 25 M. F.	25 to 35 M. F.	35 to 45 M. F.	45 to 65 M. F.	65 and upwards M. F.	Total all ages
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	2 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Whooping Cough	-	1	2	2 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Measles	1	1	1	2 -	1 -	-	-	-	-	-	9
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5



CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

Public Health Act, 1936, Sec.85

Scabies :

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons and contacts are treated at the Treatment Centre, Bedford.

Prevention of Blindness:

No action was necessary under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

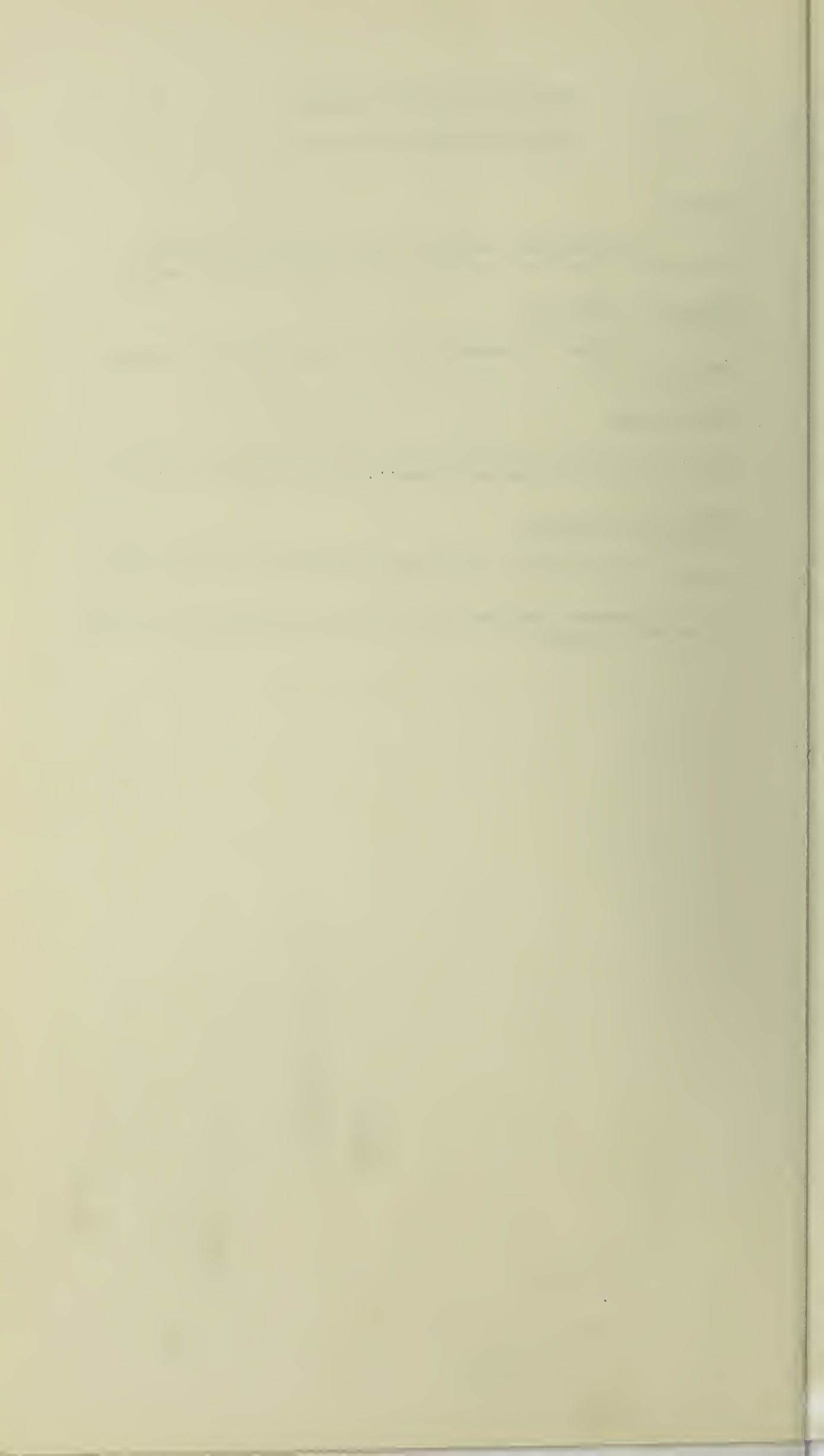
School Closure :

It was not found necessary to close any schools in the area on account of infectious disease.

Eradication of Bed Bugs :

It was not found necessary to disinfect any houses during the year.

Thermatox disinfectors and Bombay liquid spray is available for use when required.



1. IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The table given below shows the number of children under 15 years of age who have received protective treatment against Diphtheria. The County Council, under the National Health Service Act, 1946, provides this treatment free of charge through the family doctor or at school or a child Welfare Centre. The figures have been supplied by the Eastern Divisional Medical Officer. It is still necessary to urge all parents to give their children the protection which can be had free of cost from their own doctor or at a Welfare Clinic or at School.

The number of cases of and deaths from Diphtheria have shown a remarkable decline since the introduction of immunisation and no case has been notified in the district for several years. In order to ensure that outbreaks of this disease will not occur in the future, it is necessary that at least 75 per cent of all children under the age of 5 years should be protected effectively against the disease, i.e. they should have had either a primary immunisation or a "booster" injection within the last five years.

Protection against Whooping Cough :

Since 1st November, 1955 the County Council have made facilities available for the protection against Whooping Cough of young children who have not had the disease and whose parents are desirous of having such protection given to their children. The Whooping Cough vaccine can be given alone or in combination with Diphtheria prophylactic.

Primary Immunisations completed during 1959.

TABLE I - DIPHTHERIA ONLY.

Number of children during the year 1959 who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area (including Temporary Residents).								
Age at 31.12.59. i.e. Born in yr.	Under 1 1959	1 1958	2 1957	3 1956	4 1955	5 - 9 1954-1950	10 to 14 1949-1945	Total under 15.
No. Immunised	-	-	4	3	-	2	1	10

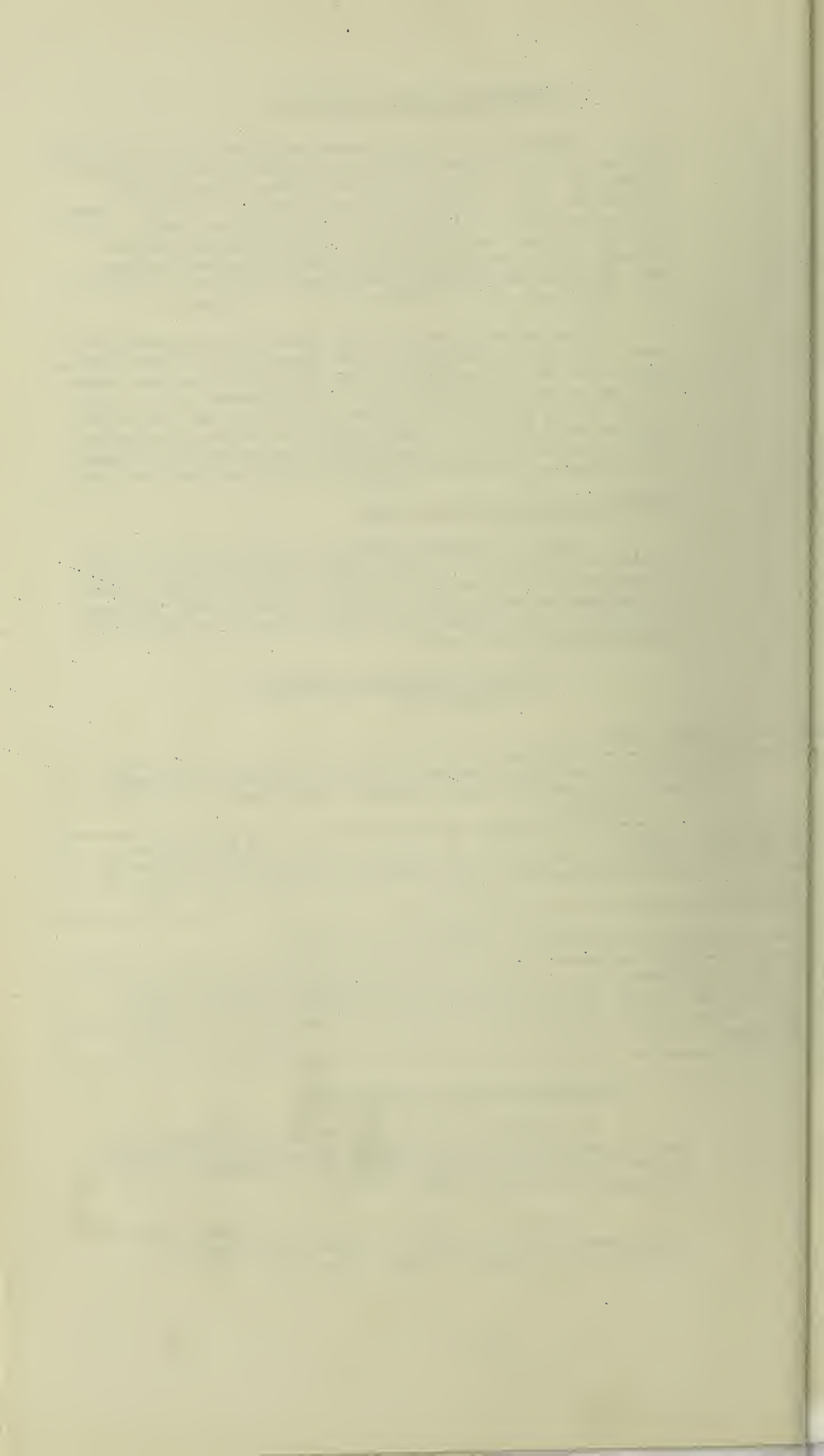
TABLE II - DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION & WHOOPING COUGH COMBINED.

Age at 31.12.1959 i.e. Born in yr.	Under 1 1959	1 1958	2 1957	3 1956	4 1955	5 - 9 1954-1950	10 to 14 1949-1945	Total under 15
No. Immunised	57	10	7	1	2	-	-	77

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The County Council Scheme for the registration and vaccination against Poliomyelitis of the age groups of children as laid down by the Ministry of Health was continued through the Eastern Divisional Medical Officer.

At the end of 1959 in the whole of Eastern Division 6621 persons in the age groups 6 months to 25 years had received the full course of three injections.



III Diphtheria Notification and Deaths in relation to Immunisation.

Age at date of notification.	Number of cases notified	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed full course of immunisation.	Age at date of death	Number of deaths	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed full course of immunisation.
Under 1	-	-	Under 1	-	-
1	-	-	1	-	-
2	-	-	2	-	-
3	-	-	3	-	-
4	-	-	4	-	-
5 to 9	-	-	5 to 9	-	-
10 to 14	-	-	10 to 14	-	-
Totals	-	-	Totals	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

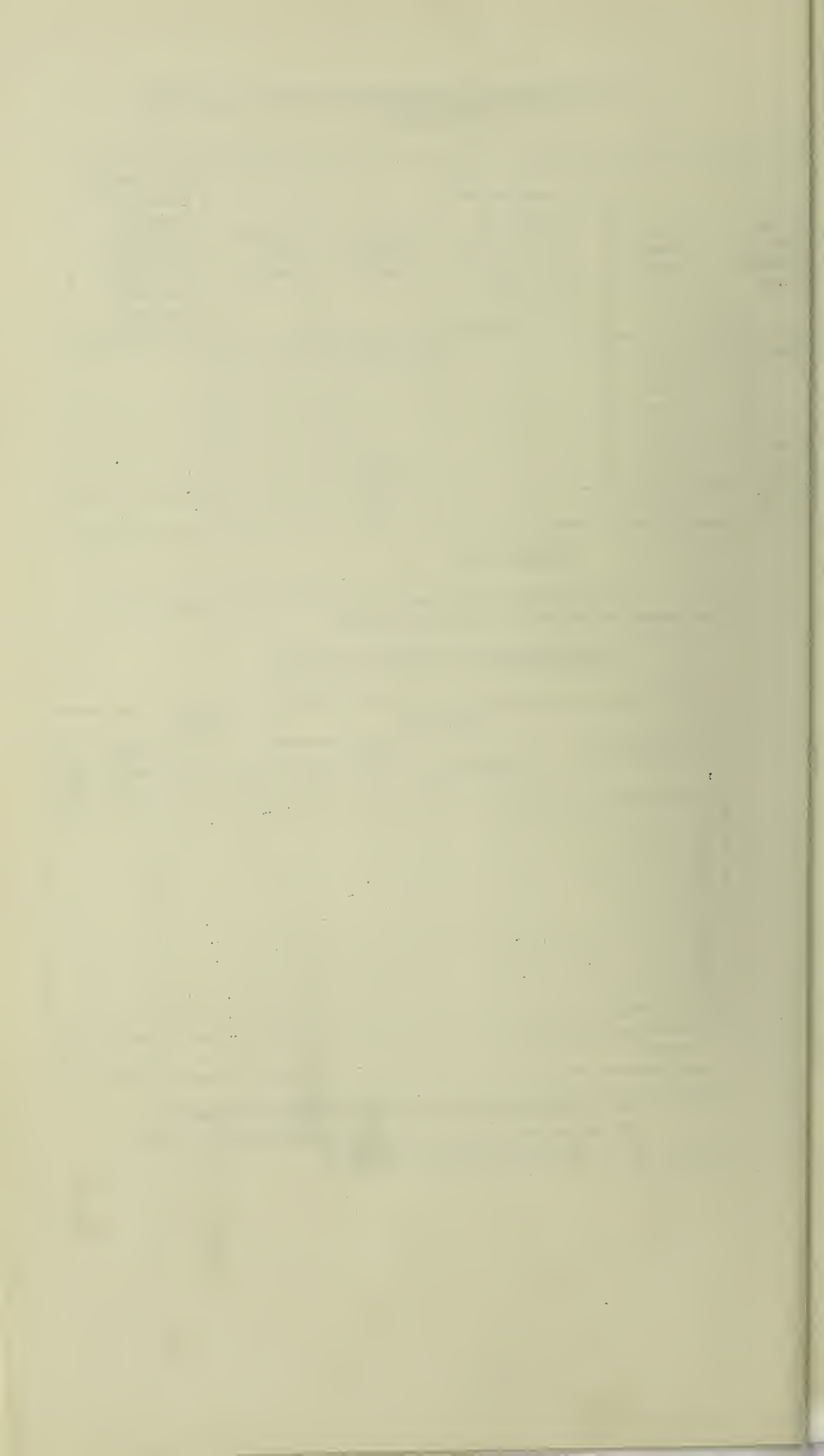
The following table shows the number of new cases, and the number of deaths in their age groups.

Age Distribution of Cases and Deaths.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals	3	3	-	-	-	1	-	-

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

No action was taken under these regulations, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.



Report of Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

Year Ended 31st December, 1959.

Building Plans :

The following building plans were approved by the Council and work inspected and drains tested during course of construction:-

Dwellings	...	...	27
Alterations, additions, conversions			26
Garages	...	...	37
Caravans	...	...	2
Petrol Tanks	...	...	1
Change of Use	...	...	5
Advertisement Signs	...	...	6
Greenhouses, agricultural buildings, store sheds etc.	...	...	12
Electricity Sub Stations		...	1
Ambulance Depot	...	...	1
			<u>118</u>

General Sanitary Inspections:

The following inspections were made and nuisances abated or defects remedied by formal action :-

Housing defects	...	...	3392
Unfit houses	...	...	2
Defective drains	...	...	79
Factories	...	...	1
Food Premises	...	...	4
Water wastage	...	...	712
			<u>4190</u>

Forty-eight inspections were made in connection with Rodent Control, treatment being necessary in 44 cases, and one test bating of sewers was carried out.

Meat and Other Foods :

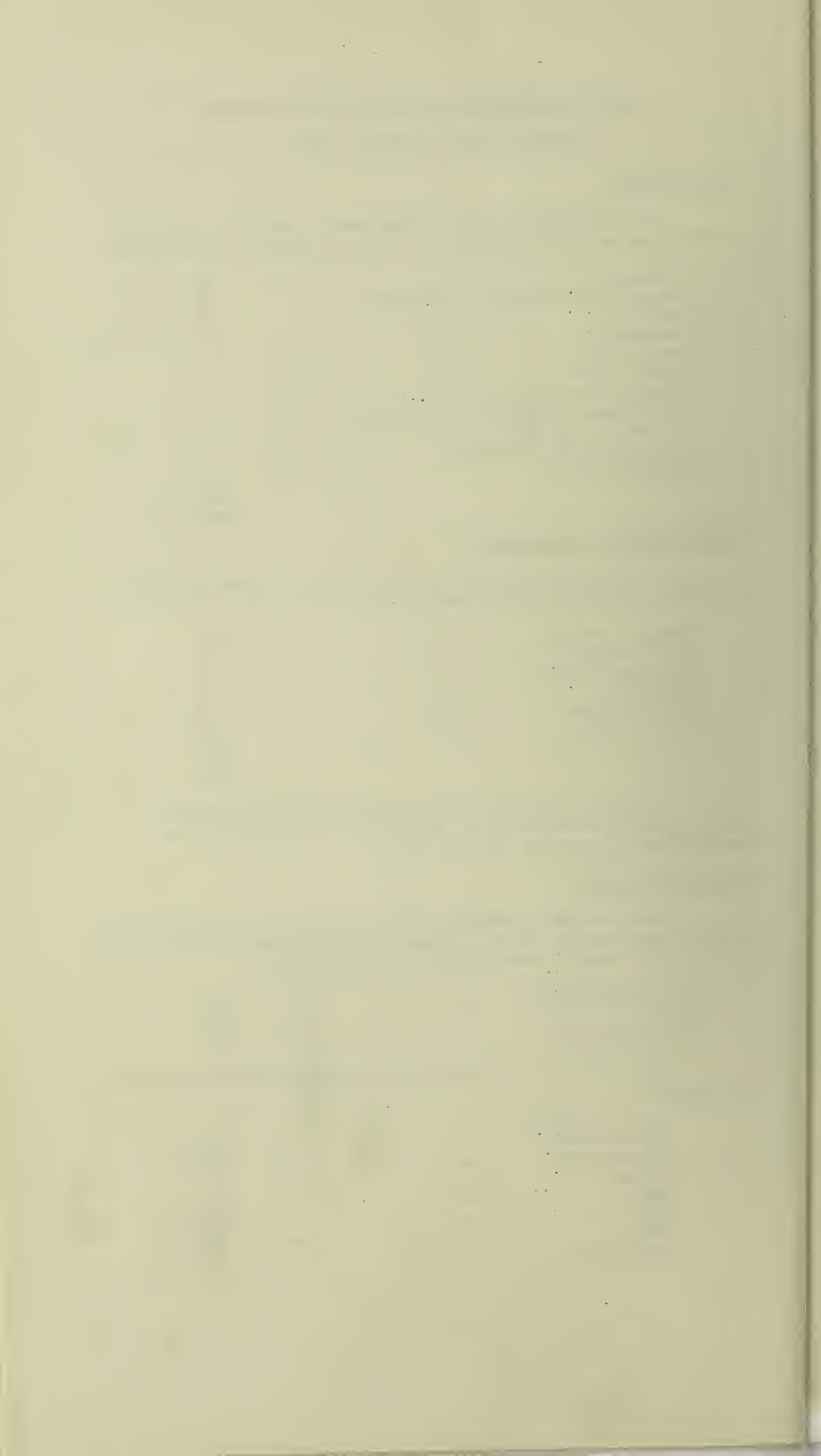
Regular meat inspection duties have been carried out by the Council's staff at the three licensed slaughterhouses in the district. The following animals were slaughtered and inspected :-

Steers and Heifers	...	...	346
Pigs	...	...	488
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	676

The following foodstuffs were rejected as unfit for human consumption :-

Parts rejected :-

Carcase meat	...	...	158 lbs
Livers	...	...	1
Hearts	...	...	2
Offal	...	...	157 lbs
Heads	...	...	2
Tinned Meat	...	...	14 lbs



Factories and Workshops :

The following factories and workshops are registered :-

Brewers	....	....	1
Millers	....	....	3
Motor and Cycle Engineers	....	....	11
General Engineers	....	....	6
Joiners	....	....	4
Plumbers	....	....	5
Printers	....	....	2
Tailors	....	....	1
Boot Repairers	....	....	4
Laundry	....	....	1
Caravans	....	....	1
Lingerie & Clothing Manufacturers	....	....	2
Bookbinding	....	....	1
Miscellaneous	....	....	16

House Scavenging :

One 18 cubic yard Dennis "Paxit" refuse collection vehicle is used for the collection of house and trade refuse. This normally deals with all collections, but is supplemented from time to time, as may be required by a 10 cubic yard Karrier Vehicle. A bonus scheme for workmen is operated in connection with this service. Refuse disposal is effected by means of controlled tipping.

Waste paper is not collected, but the salvage of scrap metal and rags etc. has been continued and is undertaken during the course of normal refuse collection. A bonus scheme is in operation for this work and a proportion of the income from the sale of salvage is paid to the collectors. The collections during the year were as follows:-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>lbs</u>
Scrap Iron	2	13	2	-
Mixed Aluminium		4	1	21
Brass and Copper		2	0	2
Rags	1	5	2	8
Bottles		86 doz.		

Sewerage :-

190 lin.yds of 9" and 264 lin.yds of 6" soil sewers; and 80 lin.yds of 12", 107 lin.yds of 9" and 74 lin.yds of 6" surface water sewers, were laid to serve the Council's Housing Site at Playfield Close and Mead End. A new sewage pumping station was also constructed on this estate, including the laying of 214 lin.yds of 4" C.I. rising main.

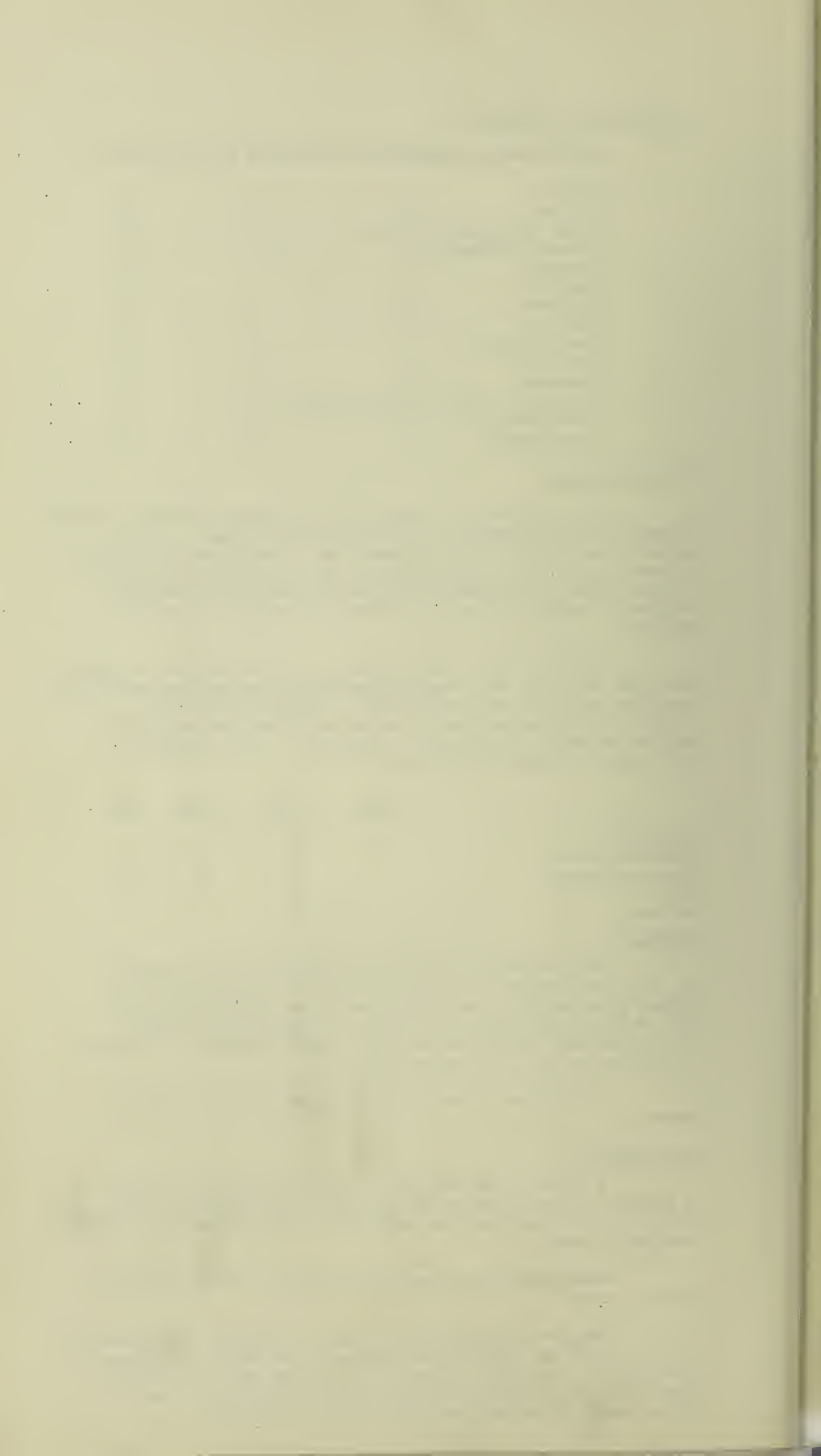
In addition 16 new connections were made to existing sewers.

Water Supply:-

A length of 85 lin.yds. of 3" C.I. watermain was laid in Playfield Close to serve the Council's housing estate. 54 lin.yds. of 3" C.I. watermain was also laid for a private housing estate at Stonelands Avenue.

Twenty-five new connections were made to the Council's existing mains.

The total consumption of water for the year inclusive of trade supplies was 114,058,000 gallons. This shows an increase of approximately 4,000,000 gallons on the figures for the previous year. The overall daily average consumption of water was approximately 39 gallons per head of the population.



712 inspections for water wastages were made. 6 Notices were served requiring repairs to prevent waste and 666 taps were rewashered free of charge.

Housing :

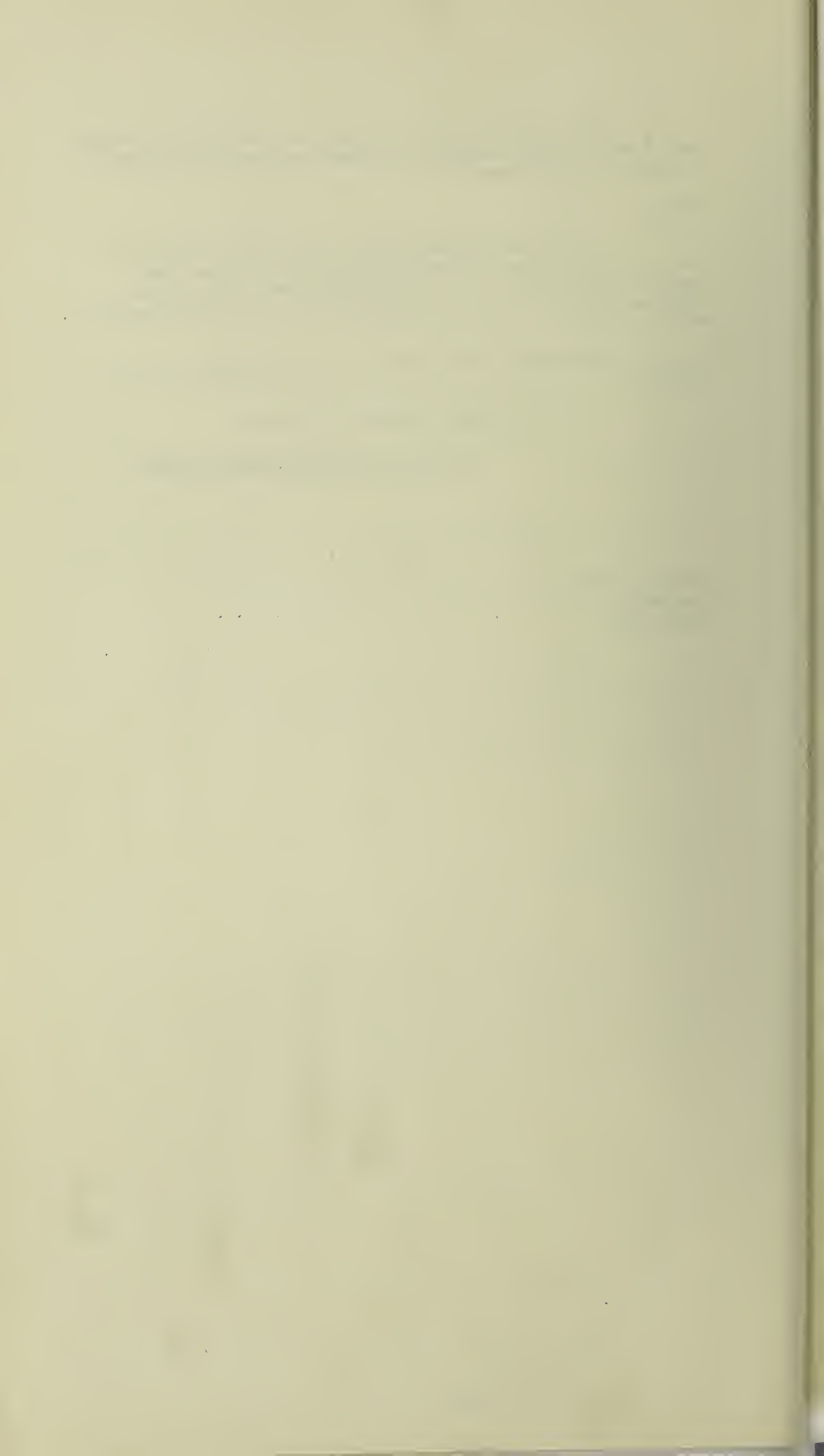
A scheme for 23 houses and 2 old peoples bungalows at the Elm Road/Head End site was commenced by the Council and reached an advanced stage of construction four of the houses being completed. A block of 12 garages was also erected on this estate.

32 private houses were erected in the district during the year.

T. WILSON, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

Stratton House,
The Baulk,
Biggleswade.



FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I

1. Inspections :

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices.	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	9	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	49	1	-	-
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworker's premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	58	1	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness.	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conv.					
a. Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-
b. Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c. Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not incl. offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-



PART VIII

Outwork

Nature of work.	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices Served.	Prosecutions.
earing apparel (making).	3	-	-	-	-	-

